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leisurely. It struck strangely upon my ear, for common sounds in times of peace sometimes become very uncommon noises in time of war.

"By the fire lay one of those ropes soaked in tar called cellar-rats. I lit it and took it to the door; it made a flaming torch and showed me a broad strip of white road spread with puddles and lashed by rain.

"The sound of the tin can drew nearer and nearer; then out of the dark across the torch-lit strip of road came first two women, one young, one very old. The old woman was carrying a bundle, and the young woman had on her back a bundle also.

"They both were of the poorest order of peasantry, and their faces as they glanced at me in passing were filled with absolute and blank despair. After them came a man in wooden shoes, leading a goat; after him a very old man, leading by the hand a child. The child was crying and dragging along after it a tin can tied to a string, clinging even in its grief to this miserable toy. They vanished, swallowed up by the blackness; homeless, and going God knows where.

"I thought of them to-day. That wretched family passed in review before me as the troops were passing in review before the Kaiser; and through all the blaring of trumpets and beating of drums I seemed to hear the dreary sound of that old tin can."

### A Soldier's Reminiscence.

The setting sun spread crimson pinions wide  
Behind the pine woods on the dark hillside;  
A river flowed along its quiet way,  
And on its flowery bank I hidden lay  
Alone to watch the ford, with orders clear  
To shoot down any foe who should appear.  
I was a soldier; glory was my aim,  
To serve my country and uplift my name.

It was a lovely place, a Sabbath hour,  
And quiet thoughts flowed on, with hallowing power,  
Of love, and distant heaven, and peace divine,  
And home remembrances would intertwine;—  
How at the church just then there would arise  
Sweet, holy hymns and gentle memories.  
Hour after hour I kept the watch with care,  
Lest an opponent should be lurking there.

Just as the light began to fade away,  
And the bright, crimson sky was turning gray,  
I thought across the stream I could discern  
A soldier 'neath the trees, crouched in the fern,  
Who held a rifle. Though the view was dim,  
I steadily took aim and fired at him.  
He upwards sprung. I heard his bitter cry  
As he threw up his hands in agony,  
Then fell, and rolled adown the sloping bank,  
And in the river's rapid channel sank.  
The hills just echoed with a sullen roar,  
And all was still and peaceful as before.

I kept my guard, and lay in quiet thought.  
Who was that man whom I to death had brought?  
Had I made some glad wife a widow lone?  
Some mother into hopeless sorrow thrown?  
Some little children now made fatherless?  
Some happy home now wrecked in dire distress?  
Oft of bereaved homes had been my thought,  
And help for widows and for orphans sought.  
Had I now brought a desolating flood  
Outweighing all I ever did for good?  
What harm had that man ever done to me  
That I should hurl him to eternity?

Was he prepared to die? How could I know  
But I had plunged him in eternal woe,  
And now, without a moment to prepare,  
To tell the Judge of all I sent him there?  
Had he lived on, perchance he might have found  
Some useful life and gained a name renowned;  
To hoary hairs a happy course might see  
His sons and daughters in prosperity.

So served his age. Perchance might hap to find  
Some grand invention that would bless mankind;  
Whilst fellow citizens respect his name,  
And raise a marble statue to his fame.  
Perhaps not so. Yet it was clear to me  
I had destroyed his possibility.  
In abject bitterness, down sank my heart  
In dreams that never from my soul would part.

My guard relieved, the tale I freely told.  
My comrades praised my skill and action bold;  
My captain said I had my duty done,  
Some military glory I had won.  
I heard the praise, and how the reasons ran  
Which justified the slaughter of the man.  
But all the arguments that others try,  
And views that many minds can satisfy,  
Lift not the burden from my weighted heart;  
The lurid memory will not depart.

Sometimes at night, when all around is still,  
I see the man upspringing from the hill;  
Sometimes, amidst a gay and festive throng,  
I grave and silent stand, with impulse strong;  
Sometimes at church, above the organ's strain,  
I hear that bitter, lonely cry again.  
Nothing can change the dread to which I own  
To meet that man before the great White Throne.

— J. Hunt Cooke.

### Address of Representatives of the British Peace Societies to the King of Italy on His Recent Visit to King Edward.

*To His Majesty Vittorio Emanuele III., King of Italy.*

*May it Please Your Majesty:* Representing the Peace Societies, and to a large extent the movement in favor of International Peace in this country, we desire to take advantage of your Majesty's visit to our shores to present our grateful acknowledgments both of your personal services and the interest which your country has shown in the cause of International Arbitration.

We understand that in two instances your Majesty has placed this country under obligation by accepting the duty of arbitrator: first, in 1901, in the dispute between Great Britain and Brazil, relating to the frontier of Guiana, and also during the present year, in matters between Great Britain and Portugal, in connection with the delimitation of the country of Barotzeland in South Africa. For this we thank your Majesty.

We remember also the part which Italy has taken in the arbitration movement. Her Parliament was one of the first, on November 24, 1873, to vote in favor of the principle, after a motion to that effect had passed the British House of Commons in July of that year, when our distinguished countryman, Mr. Henry Richard, who was the mover of that motion, was present at the debate in Rome and shared in the satisfaction of the success. Following this, the Italian Parliament, under the leadership of the Minister Signor P. S. Mancini, took an

honorable lead by inserting arbitration clauses in the treaties formed with other countries in nearly a score of instances.

Again Italy took the lead in this great movement when on July 29, 1898, there was signed at Rome a Treaty of Permanent Arbitration with the Argentine Republic, providing for the reference to that mode of settlement of all disputes which might arise between the two countries in the future. That the treaty was never ratified does not lessen the value or detract from the significance of the action.

In the historic Peace Conference of The Hague, when the practice of arbitration was placed on a sure and lasting basis by the creation of a permanent organization for its administration, your distinguished representative, Count Nigra, took a prominent and praiseworthy share in the proceedings.

Since then Italy has, in conjunction with Great Britain, been engaged in agreements calling into operation the principle of arbitral reference in the Soudan.

We also learn with satisfaction of the projected Treaty of Permanent Arbitration between Italy and France, which we venture to hope will be only the first of a series, including in due course a similar agreement with our own country, by which the bonds of amity and union will be multiplied and drawn closer, and the dangers and even the possibilities of devastating war be remotely postponed.

Your Majesty is also reputed to have shown yourself mindful of the treaty obligations imposed on all the signatories of the Hague Pacific Convention, more particularly in reference to the admirable section of it providing for the proffering of good offices in cases of actual conflict, and for that we especially thank your Majesty.

The "Final Act" of that historic Conference contained a unanimously expressed conviction, namely: "The Conference considers that the limitation of military charges, at the present time weighing upon the world, is greatly to be desired for the increase of the material and moral welfare of humanity." It also contained the formulated opinion "that the governments, taking into account the proposals made in the Conference, should make a study of the possibility of an agreement concerning the limitation of armed forces on land and sea, and of naval budgets."

This, unhappily, appeared to be as far as the Conference was prepared or able to go in the direction of its avowed object, namely, "to put an end to these incessant armaments, and to seek the means of warding off the calamities which are threatening the whole world." No relief has yet followed. The nations are still increasing their crushing burdens, and in one significant instance, at least, they have been doubled in recent years.

But the longings in the hearts and consciences of the peoples for a general appeasement which might admit of respite, and of the removal of the threatened catastrophe, have grown more and more pronounced with the lapse of time and the increase of the burdens under which they groan.

We therefore respectfully ask your Majesty to use your great influence in order to secure the fulfillment of the wishes of the Hague Peace Conference, by promoting

the further official study of this grave problem, with a view to reach some agreement between the powers which would bring relief.

We respectfully urge that no nobler duty could be undertaken by any responsible ruler; we earnestly repeat the conviction "that this lofty aim is in conformity with the most essential interests and the legitimate views of all the powers"; and we confidently assure your Majesty that such action would be most heartily welcomed and applauded by the people everywhere.

Assuring your Majesty of our warmest respect and gratitude, and heartily wishing you and your illustrious Consort a pleasant visit to our country and a safe return to your own, we respectfully subscribe ourselves,

Your Majesty's obedient Servants.

Right Hon. LEONARD COURTNEY.	JOHN MACDONELL.
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W. T. HARRIS, U. S. Commissioner of Education.

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